

## CHEMICAL MANUFACTURES

PROTECTION VINDICATED.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY—ITS MARVELOUS PROGRESS AND ADVANTAGE TO THE COUNTRY.

The manufacture of chemicals is justly regarded as one of the most important branches of our national industry. The miner, the manufacturer, the weaver, the paper-maker, the painter, the glass-maker, are all dependent upon it for articles of the first necessity in their respective pursuits. "No one," says Lawrence Smith, "can paint in too sivil colors the sum of indelebilities the caitious world is already under to the end of the late Franco-German war, it advanced 67 cents (gold) per cent in England, while the American article advanced only five cents.

The convenience of having the manufacture of this article permanently established here is of great importance, and it cannot be expressed in figures, it is no less appreciated by the greater part of the trade. At present, a country dealer has only to order by letter or telegram and his supply is promptly forwarded; while, if he depended on foreign sources, he would have to submit to the system of pecuniation and periods of scarcity and high prices, which are common in regard to all articles now produced exclusively from abroad. The change that there is a monopoly of the manufacture of sulphate of quinine is entirely baseless. There is brisk competition between the American manufacturers far greater than that of the foreign producers.

Both as regards price and convenience, there are, therefore, manifest advantages from having the ability to make it at home. Were we dependent for it on foreign makers, as we are still for coarse products, the American demand would inevitably lead to a great increase in its price, and all the changes already enumerated would have to be added. Besides, foreign labor would be employed instead of our own, and all the expenditure for fuel, alcohol, and other substances, would be made abroad instead of being diffused through every part of our own country. These facts plainly show that under Protection the production of sulphate of quinine has increased, its cost, compared with that of the foreign, has decreased, and the nation no longer depends upon foreign makers for its supply. It is manufactured, also, in far larger quantities than 15 years ago, when 12,000 ounces per annum were imported; now, only a very moderate quantity compared with the entire consumption is imported, and that is chiefly for the French population of Louisiana, who, from an unwarranted prejudice, will use only the foreign.

## CALOMEL.

Calomel is constantly referred to as a chemical whereby American manufacturers are deriving princely incomes at the expense of the consumers. The *World* asserts that, because the duty on it is 30 per cent, the people lose \$1,000 annually, being 45 per cent, on an estimated consumption of \$6,000 worth. A few facts will prove this to be unfounded. Quicksilver forms the principal ingredient of this article, and is obtained very largely from abroad, as its use in refining gold consumes the greater part of what is mined in California. The high price of labor, of course, adds the cost of all things required to conduct the chemical business, and from the commencement the American manufacturer is at greater expense than his foreign competitor. He has to pay more for his factory, his apparatus, and his capital, than he would in Europe. Factories nearer, and the cost of getting the great laboratory materials to the port of entry, would be much less.

Alcohol, which is very largely used, is also more expensive in this country than it is in Europe. The French and German manufacturer has it free of duty, and in England, by using methylated spirit, a similar advantage is attained. The United States Internal Revenue tax on it is equivalent to \$1 per gallon, and the fear that any exception would lead to evasion on the part of distillers has also justified its retention on spirits used in manufactures. Then, for example, in Philadelphia, Mississippi, 16, Louisiana, 16, Texas, 14, Indiana, 14, Tennessee, 12, These States' averages, reduced to a general average, the assumed acreage of the respective States being an element in the calculation, will place the reduction of the cotton area of 1870, as compared with that of 1850, between 14 and 15 per cent, equivalent to nearly a million and a third of acres. This would leave between 7,500,000 and 8,000,000 of acres, but it has not, in former years, exceeded 120 pounds per acre; that for 1870 was more than 200 pounds. The condition of the growing crop is below an average in nearly every State. The spring has been unusually dry, and the weather has been unpropitious for cotton. Weather more favorable.

*Yazoo County, Miss.*—In poor condition; excessive rains; a poor prospect as I have ever seen in the county in 40 years.

*Lafayette County, Miss.*—Not promising; grassy.

*Kosciusko County, Miss.*—Unpromising; excessive moisture. The weather is now more favorable.

*Marietta County, Miss.*—There will be little cotton made in this country; excessive rains.

*Franklin County, Miss.*—Cotton backward, owing to heavy rains; and there was a stand at first.

*Madison County, Miss.*—Backward, owing to heavy rains and cold nights.

*Wilcox County, Miss.*—The cold weather and the continuous rains have killed off the cotton. Some farms have had to plant again as late as June 1st.

*Clark County, Miss.*—Acreage decreased, and the first planting destroyed in a great measure.

*Johnston County, Miss.*—Acreage decreased, and a still further reduction is possible in view of several of these causes of failure.

*Madison Parish, La.*—One month later than usual; and a stand at first; the crop has come up poorly destroyed by the heat, less than one-third planted this year than last, owing to continued rains.

*Winn Parish, La.*—Very backward in consequence of wet and cold weather.

*Prairie, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains in April and May; crop generally unpromising.

*Rapides Parish, La.*—Extremely backward, owing to wet and cool weather; too early in grain.

*Allen Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. Landry Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Calcasieu Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Jefferson Davis Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Pointe Coupee Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Franklin Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. Martin Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. John Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Plaquemines Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*Terrebonne Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

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*St. James Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. Charles Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. Tammany Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

*St. Bernard Parish, La.*—Stand improved by heavy rains; a poor prospect as it is.

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